GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8001
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
VISIT OF PAK TEAM
A. VENKATESH NAIK;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a convention of the Pakistan-India People`s Forum for Peace and Democracy was held at Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any Pak team visited India recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the purpose thereof;

(f) the persons, organisations with whom it held talks; and (g) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a)-(g) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Joint Convention of the Pakistan-India People`s Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPFPD) was held a Bangalore from 6-8 April, 2000. This Forum is a private initiative and its members comprise of citizens of the two countries including former civil servants, politicians and retired officers of the Armed Forces. The deliberations of the Forum are aimed at improving relations between the two countries. A 62-member Pakistani women`s delegation visited India from 2-9 May 2000, under the aegis of an exchange-of-visit programme organized by the `Women`s Initiative for Peace in South Asia` (WIPSA)During their stay in India, members of the delegation met the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister of State for External Affairs, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development and the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.The visit provided an opportunity for the Pakistani delegates to interact with prominent Indians, which included former Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral.The delegates also interacted with members of other NGOs such as the Indian Women`s Press Corps and the Pakistan India People`s Forum for Peace and Democracy. In addition to their stay at New Delhi, the Pakistani delegates visited the cities of Agra, Sikandra, Fatehpur Sikri and Jaipur. Government fully supports all endeavors to enhance people-to-people contacts between the two countries.